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MSP Watchdog Group  
Welcomes Airports Commission Meeting  
Evening Off-site

**METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION  
MONDAY MARCH 19, 2012 – 7 PM  
HALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MINNEAPOLIS**

Although an Agenda is not yet available and opportunities for citizen participation are limited in practice, the South Metro Airport Action Council welcomes Chair Dan Boivin's decision to hold the March regular meeting of the Metropolitan Airports Commission in the evening, outside airport security.

The meeting promises to be well-attended due to the now months long controversy caused by operational changes at MSP that resulted in more, lower, and louder overflights in South Minneapolis neighborhoods just north of the airport.

SMAAC's white paper [<http://quiettheskies.org/11news/OverflightsWPNov2011.pdf>] last November reported that *as regional jets replaced larger airliners and turboprops, aircraft began turning sooner to clear the runway for an arrival right behind them at peak hours.* Even as daily flights decreased from the 2004-05 top of 1,450 operations per day, more regional jets came into use and peak-hour operations remained more or less constant at 150+ per hour; nearly simultaneous operations on the parallel runways are needed for that rate, and also are allowed anytime due an exception granted years ago.

The near-mid-air-collision in September caused the MSP FAA Control Tower to change, and airlines then to shuffle, departures greatly increasing low-altitude overflights and particularly impacting new areas by earlier turns by more aircraft departing on the North Parallel Runway toward the west. MAC noise staff's first responses to the complaints understated the impact of the changes and claimed that the overflights were a safety precaution. FAA did change departure procedures following the September 2010 incident, but Carl Rydeen doubted, and later reported that other causes exacerbated the problem. SMAAC outlined these other causes, but after several meetings with the Noise Oversight Committee and hundreds of inquiries and complaints, staff's response has been discussed formally.

Chair Boivin attended informal meetings with the impacted neighbors set up by the Noise staff, and he must expect a large group of citizens will attend the March 19 meeting. It could be an interesting evening!